

WINTER ROAD UPDATE

Preparing for this Season's Winter Road:

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2011-2012 Winter Road Season. This is the eighth season that Kimeskanemenow has been building and maintaining the road, and we anticipate a safe and productive season.

The Kimeskanemenow Corporation is owned by the communities of Fort Albany, Kashechewan, and Attawapiskat and is responsible for building, maintaining and operating a winter road on the Western Coast of James Bay. The 310 km long road connects Moosonee to the communities reaching as far as Attawapiskat.

This season, each of the communities will be responsible for building their respective portions of the road which maximizes jobs for local contractors and workers for the winter road season.

The winter road team is led by General Manager Gilbert Etherington, ably assisted by Wally Turner, the Operations Manager. Our Winter Road foremen for this season are Jeff Innes (Moose Cree Section), Edmund Edwards (Fort Albany Section), Silas Reuben (Kashechewan Section), and Steve Hookimaw (Attawapiskat Section). Bernard Okimaw is our Road Safety Coordinator.

Winter Road Safety Information

The James Bay Winter Road is a seasonal lifeline to the remote communities of Attawapiskat, Fort Albany and Kashechewan. Winter roads rely on cold weather. A few degrees on the thermometer can mean the difference between a safe trip and one that ends in disaster. Here are some important considerations;

DO NOT TRAVEL ON CLOSED WINTER ROADS

This is by far the most important rule of winter road travel. Winter roads are closed when they are unsafe to use, for instance, during construction, during blizzard-like conditions, or if high tides make travelling along the waterways unsafe. This is a very remote area, and if you are stranded, help could be a long time coming.

DRIVE SAFE

Drive according to road conditions. The James Bay Winter Road has an ice cap, and improvements in the road have led to increased speeds by Road users. The ice cap means that the road is very slippery and it can take longer to stop. It is

important to drive at a speed where you are able to control your vehicle at ALL TIMES. Practice safe stopping on the road, so that you can learn how your vehicle reacts when brakes are applied. Make sure that you are able to slow down or stop safely at all times. Roads follow the natural terrain. Bumps, hills and blind curves are all part of the winter road experience.

BE POLITE

In a snowy landscape, travelling by moonlight at night can actually increase your visibility because headlights reflect for great distances. Always dim your lights for approaching traffic. It is extremely important that vehicles travelling past each other slow down to avoid making the roadway disappear in a cloud of swirling snow. Always scan for oncoming traffic. If you see someone in trouble – please stop and do what you can to help – lives may be at stake.

KEEP CENTERED, KEEP MOVING, LEAVE SPACE

Always drive just to the right of centre on a winter road. The winter road can be significantly weaker near the snow banks along the road. This is because snow acts as an insulator, preventing the muskeg or ice below from freezing as hard as the middle of the road. Snowbanks also add weight on water crossings, so it is safer to stay away from the snowbanks towards the middle of the road as you cross rivers.

SLOW DOWN CROSSING ICE

Experienced winter road drivers slow down to 15 km per hour as they cross waterways. They know that fast moving vehicles can cause a wave to form under the ice. This wave can break the ice in front of them when it strikes a shoreline or sandbar, or hits a wave from a vehicle travelling in the opposite direction. Drivers of smaller vehicles should keep this in mind and move over for large truck traffic, always making sure that they are able to slow down or stop safely. It is really important to slow down when coming up to the shoreline to avoid cracking the ice. If you see a lot of water on the ice or on the land, do not drive through it until you make sure that it is safe to do so.

Kimeskanemenow Corporation wants your photos!

If you have any photos of your travels on the Winter Road, send us a brief caption explaining your trip and your pictures.

Send the photos and they could be featured in our next newsletter or on the website!
info@jamesbaywinterroad.com



WINTER ROAD UPDATE JANUARY 2012 STATUS

The James Bay Winter Road is managed by:

KIMESKANEMENOW CORPORATION

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WINTER ROAD SAFETY INFORMATION CONTINUED

DON'T LITTER

A piece of paper takes thirty days to break down into pieces small enough to become part of the earth again. A soda can takes 200 years!!!! Please don't throw food or litter out of your vehicle or leave it on the side of the winter road. Garbage attracts animals to the road where they can be killed or injured. Please take it home to be disposed of properly.

ALWAYS TELL SOMEONE WHEN YOU EXPECT TO ARRIVE

When you leave to go somewhere along the winter road, make sure that someone knows where and when you are expected to arrive at your destination. If you break down or have problems on the road, they are then able to call for help if you do not arrive when you should.

PREPARE FOR THE WORST, EXPERIENCE THE BEST

If you have not travelled along the winter road, your first winter road trip should be with someone who is experienced with winter road driving. Remember that weather and ice conditions can change quickly, so it is important to make sure that you are ready for whatever comes your way.

In winter weather, any delay or breakdown can quickly become life threatening if you are not dressed appropriately. If you are on any kind of medication, you should carry enough personal medication and enough fuel to reach your destination should you be delayed for any reason.

It is a great idea to make sure that you have winter survival equipment like;

- Winter clothing and blankets (ex. Parka, mitts, hat, boots, under wear, sun glasses)
- Basic camping equipment (ex. Matches/lighter, candles, flashlight, axe, toilet paper)
- Emergency food supplies (ex. Hot pack meals, nuts, granola bars, chocolates, thermos)
- Tools for vehicle repair (ex. Booster cables, jack, tow rope, shovel, gas line antifreeze)
- Satellite phone, CB or two way radio

We at Kimeskanemenow Corporation take pride in the construction of the James Bay Winter Road and we want our community members to assist us in making it the safest winter road in Northern Ontario.

AUTO EXTRICATION TRAINING

In late October, members of the James Bay Winter Emergency Response Team (JBWRERT) participated in auto extrication training. Training is carried out each year to make sure that team members understand and practice newer rescue techniques as well as to understand the newer makes and models in the automobile industry.

The use of auto extrication equipment along the James Bay Winter Road is limited but our team members are well trained to respond to vehicular accidents that may occur. Team members will also be undertaking spills response training later in the season to be able to respond to incidents such as a large fuel spill.

The following are Emergency Response Team members:

Attawapiskat First Nation	Fire Chief Steve Hookimaw, Jonathan Hookimaw, Bernard Spence, Gerry Nakogee
Kashechewan First Nation	Fire Chief Michael Wesley, Adrian Metatawabin, Chris Wesley
Fort Albany First Nation	Fire Chief Wayne Koostachin, John Paul Scott, Joseph Scott, Edward Koostachin, Thomas Tomagatick
Moose Cree First Nation	Fire Chief Chris Alisappi, Leonard Kapashesit, Michael Delaney, Ryan Blueboy
Town of Moosonee	Fire Chief Bill Henry, Wayne Hunter

The training was provided by Northern College. The instructors are members of the Timmins Fire Department.



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